

The Times-Dispatch

Published Daily and Weekly at No. 4 North Tenth Street, Richmond, Va. Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as Second-Class Matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 2 cents a copy.

The SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 5 cents a copy.

DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH by mail—50 cents a month, \$5.00 a year, \$2.50 for six months, \$1.50 for three months.

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The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH, including Sunday, by Carrier, 15 cents per week.

The SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH, by Carrier, 5 cents per week.

The WEEKLY TIMES-DISPATCH, \$1.00 year.

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Uptown Office at T. A. MILLER'S, No. 519 East Broad Street.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1908.

A DANGEROUS MOVEMENT.

We are distressed to hear that a movement has been started to amend the Constitution so as to make the temporary understanding clause permanent, and we sincerely hope that the effort will fail at the outset. This question was thoroughly and fully discussed by members of the Constitutional Convention, and it was finally decided that a temporary understanding clause was all that was needed to register the whites and to exclude the objectionable blacks. There was serious objection on the part of the majority of the members of the convention and on the part of the people at large even to a temporary understanding clause, but the conclusion was finally reached that this was the only practicable remedy for the evil, and many of those who were opposed to it finally yielded. But those who yielded are still opposed to making this feature of the Constitution permanent, and if such an issue is thrust into the politics of Virginia it will cause no end of trouble. It is a dangerous thing to trifle with, and we give warning.

We cannot see what occasion there is for making this change. Under the present system the white voters of the State can get on the permanent roll, and if they have not done so, and if they fail to do so at the next registration, it will be their own fault and through their own neglect. As for the negro vote, while some negroes have been admitted to the suffrage, the great majority of them have been excluded, and we believe that the restrictions contained in section 20 of the Constitution are sufficient to guard the suffrage, after the temporary understanding clause shall have expired by limitation. In that section it is provided that "after the 1st day of January, 1904, every male citizen of the United States having the qualifications of age and residence required in section 15 shall be entitled to register, provided:

"First. That he has personally paid to the proper officer all State poll taxes assessed or assessable against him, under this or the former Constitution, for the three years next preceding that in which he offers to register; or, if he come of age at such time that no poll tax shall have been assessed against him for the year preceding the year in which he offers to register, he may pay one dollar and fifty cents in satisfaction of the first year's poll tax assessable against him; and,

"Second. That, unless physically unable, he make application to register in his own handwriting, without aid, suggestion or memorandum, in the presence of the registration officers, stating therein his name, age, date and place of birth, residence and occupation at the time and for the two years next preceding, and whether he has previously voted, and, if so, the State, county and precinct in which he voted last; and,

"Third. That he answer on oath any and all questions affecting his qualifications as an elector, submitted to him by the officers of registration, which questions, and his answers thereto, shall be reduced to writing, certified by the said officers, and preserved as a part of their official records."

But that is not all. There are other restrictions as to voting. If the person offering to vote registered prior to January 1, 1904, he will be permitted to receive assistance in the preparation of his ballot, but he is required to have paid, at least six months prior to the election, all State poll taxes assessed or assessable against him within the three years next preceding that in which he offers to vote, unless he be an old soldier of the civil war. But if he be a person who has become registered after January 1, 1904, then, in addition to the prepayment of his State poll taxes six months prior to the election, he will be required, unless physically unable, to make out and deposit his own ballot without assistance.

We warn that under these restrictions of registration and voting Virginia will be abundantly protected against the objectionable negro vote, and we can see no reason whatever for making a change. The understanding clause in the hands of the right sort of men is all right, but it is a dangerous power to put into the hands of any set of men, and if it be made a permanent feature of our organic law, abuses will undoubtedly spring up and our last state will be worse than the first.

We sincerely hope that the General Assembly of Virginia will not throw this prebend into the politics of the State. If it does there will be trouble for the Democratic party. It is as dangerous as dynamite.

THE BURDICK CASE.

"I feel it my duty to kill Ed. Burdick." So reads one sentence in a letter written by Pennell to Mrs. Burdick, and which was found in the house of the deceased the morning after the murder. Since that time the letter has been locked in the

office of District Attorney Coalworth and probably will be produced at the conclusion of the inquest on Monday, when Mrs. Burdick may be cross-questioned as to receiving it.

This is another sensational development in one of the most mysterious and sensational cases in the annals of American crime. The killing of Burdick in his "den" in his own house; the tragic death of Mr. and Mrs. Pennell both the inhuman manner of Mrs. Hull and her granddaughter upon the witness stand, and the announcement that the police detectives have a letter containing a sentence, the substance of which we have quoted, combine to make a case where truth is stranger than fiction. Sherlock Holmes possibly might work out this case better than the Buffalo men are able to do, but he could hardly originate a more mystifying or exciting plot.

In Buffalo the belief grows that Pennell was the murderer, but that members of his household knew that the killing was to be done, and knew when it was done. Circumstances also show that the lurch was brought to the "den" by some person other than the deceased; also that the murderer washed his hands in the house, before leaving it.

The analysis of the contents of Burdick's stomach shows that he had not tasted a particle of the crackers, cheese and tartar found on the table in the "den." The suspicion that Pennell committed suicide is revived by the letter mentioned, though it seems very odd that Mrs. Burdick should have preserved that letter. From this circumstance, and the added fact that it was written three months ago, it may be argued that she attached little importance to it; but Pennell must have known its importance, and wondered whether it had been destroyed. However, the history of nearly all great crimes shows that some essential thing which should have been carefully concealed by the perpetrators was left uncovered.

In one of the letters written to the New York American by Julian Hawthorne, he comments as most other people do—on the illness on the witness stand shown by Marion Burdick, the sixteen-year-old daughter of deceased. Yet he says she stated as facts things which are incredible, and contradicted statements that she had previously made. And, he adds, in testifying, Marion had the intonation of a child reciting a lesson.

In this connection it is related that last August this girl, being alone in her father's automobile, the machine ran away at breakneck speed and could not be stopped, but she guided it with astounding coolness around curves and corners, until about exhausted of power, she ended her perilous ride at the barn where the automobile was kept.

To us, all the characters in the Buffalo tragedy were strange—they were suffering from a divorce epidemic that had broken out in their neighborhood, and their conduct was far from normal. The mystery of their lives is being slowly unraveled, and in this case it would seem that "murder will out."

TO THE READING PUBLIC.

Every now and then some fake publisher trots out a bunch of "newspaper laws," which have no existence as such, and which originated in the brain of a smart scoundrel for trickery. They have been going the rounds for twenty years, and are as follows:

"Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered as wishing to receive their subscription for life."

"If subscribers neglect to refuse to take their periodicals from the postoffice to which they are directed, they are responsible until they have settled their bills and ordered them discontinued."

"If subscribers move to other places without informing the publishers, and the papers are sent to the former address, they are held responsible."

"The courts have decided that refusing to take periodicals from the office or refusing to leave them unopened for a prima facie evidence of intentional fraud."

"If subscribers pay in advance they are bound to give notice at the end of the time if they do not wish to continue taking it, and leaving the publisher is authorized to send it, and the subscriber will be held responsible until express notice, with payment of all arrearsages, is sent to the publisher."

"The latest postal laws are such that newspaper publishers can arrest any one for fraud who takes a paper and refuses to pay for it. Under this law the man who allows his subscription to run along for some time unpaid and then orders it discontinued, or orders the postmaster to mark it 'refused,' and have a postal card sent notifying the publisher, leaves himself liable to arrest and fine, the same as for theft."

We warn the reading public that there are no such Federal or State laws, and no such postal regulations. Postmasters are required to notify publishers when any subscriber refuses or neglects to take the publication from the office, but that is all. When a publisher sends a newspaper or periodical to a subscriber he assumes the risk just as does a merchant who ships goods on credit. He must collect in advance or rely upon the honesty of the subscriber.

This information is given in the interest of truth and for the protection of those who may be imposed upon by fake publishers. Of course, it is mean for a man to take a paper or a magazine and read it for a year and then refuse to pay on the ground that he did not order it. But it is equally mean for a publisher to force his wares upon men and women who never subscribed and then try to force collection by false pretense.

BEAUTIFY THE CITY.

The movement to organize in this city a society for the promotion of public cleanliness and public ornamentation has been launched, and vigorous efforts will be made to push it to a successful conclusion.

We sincerely hope that the movement will succeed. We have been talking about it through these columns for years, and we are as much in love with the idea as ever.

But we give warning to those concerned that the movement will not be a success unless the women take it in hand. This is peculiarly a woman's work, and it will not be properly done unless the women do it. It is a municipal house-

keeping," as somebody has termed it, and women are born housekeepers. They know how to make the premises clean and how to keep the premises clean. They have a genius, as well as a love, for pretty things, and if the right women in Richmond can be induced to take hold of this movement it will be a great success, as all other movements which they have started have been.

We hope that they will take hold of it. The women of Richmond are very loyal to their city, and they can do it a valuable service by organizing a society of this character and aiding the city government in cleaning and beautifying the city and keeping it clean and sweet and beautiful. Richmond is the great show city of the South. Nature has been most generous to us, and we should do our part in making the city an ornament to the Commonwealth.

ANOTHER WARNING.

Mistaking a jar containing chloride of potash for one that held Epson salts, a Brooklyn woman caused the death of her husband on Tuesday last.

Here it is again, another life sacrificed to carelessness; the husband dead and the wife almost frantic with grief and remorse. Only a few days ago we mentioned a similar case, where the wrong medicine had been administered with fatal results. Often we have mentioned such incidents, and we again give warning to our readers.

Do not take drugs yourself or administer for drugs to others unless you are quite sure of what you are doing.

Keep poisonous drugs under lock and key and safe from the children.

Never take medicine in the dark, however sure you may feel that you have the right stuff in hand.

Human life is entirely too precious to be trifled with.

A decision of the Supreme Court of the United States was handed down a few days ago which deserves more than passing notice. A South Carolina negro, who had been convicted of murder, carried his case to that court, alleging that he was entitled to a new trial because he was denied the right of having a negro on the jury, although in the community in which he was tried four-fifths of the population were negroes. Justice Holmes, recently appointed to the court from Massachusetts, handed down a decision in the case, which was against a new trial, the court holding that no proof was shown in support of the claim that the jury was unfair.

Buffalo Bill is a lucky man. It is announced in a cablegram to the New York Sun from London, that a gold mine in the West, in which he owns a controlling interest, has unexpectedly turned out to be very rich. In an interview, Colonel Cody confirmed the news, saying that the mine would make him a millionaire or multi-millionaire.

He intends to retire absolutely from the show business when his existing contracts for the Wild West show in English provincial towns expire. He will devote his energies and capital to developing his many interests in the United States.

The selection of S. N. D. North to be superintendent of the United States Census in place of William R. Merriam, resigned, is said by those who know him well to be an excellent one. Mr. North has been for many years secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, and in charge of the association's publications and statistical work. He has also had much experience in connection with the United States Census, being in charge of the statistics of manufactures in the census of 1900.

A writer in "Truth," of London, discussing tact, tells of a woman who approached her husband on his dying bed, and having told him that the doctor said he was too far gone for recovery, wished to know what sort of a widow's bonnet she should buy.

This woman was scarcely less tactful than the man who carried home the body of Mr. Jones. Friends of Mr. Jones told the man to break the news as gently as possible to Mrs. Jones when he should arrive. He drove up to the door, and when Mrs. Jones came out to know the object of his mission, he inquired: "Does the Widow Jones live here?"

Mr. Samuel Fessenden has received a fee of \$150.00 as his share—twenty-five per cent. of the sum recently paid by the Federal Government to Connecticut on account of money advanced by the State in equipping, arming and supplying troops during the civil war. Mr. Fessenden defrayed all of his own expenses. At first it was believed that the State would receive only \$150.00, but interest being allowed, the sum was swollen to \$300,500.50.

Articles of Incorporation were filed on Wednesday in the office of the Secretary of State for Connecticut by the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers, Moulders and Brass Workers' Union. This is the first labor union to be incorporated in Connecticut under the general corporation law. But it will not be the last. Labor unions will find out by and by that it is good for all of them to be incorporated.

The Baltimore Sun says that fully one-third of the saloon keepers and bartenders of that city are total abstainers. "And," it adds, "there are not a few restaurateurs and owners of cafes who refuse to employ a drinking man."

The same may be said of Richmond, we think. In Baltimore the saloon men have organized a Blue Ribbon Society.

That gallon of beer that Jingo drank just before leaving England did the business for him. Poor creature. He should have waited to reach Richmond before indulging so freely.

President Roosevelt's "swing around" might be called a second edition of "The Winning of the West," by Theodore Roosevelt.

Durham, N. C., after much trial and tribulation, is now dead sure of an elegant new depot. Atlanta should go to Durham and learn the trick.

Mr. Morgan's assertion that he is will-

ing to help Cuba in her financial troubles may mean that he saw something down there that he wants real bad.

Sitting out trees with ceremony will be something new in Virginia. Good fertilizer would probably do better than ceremony.

The Governor fails in his tree proclamation to suggest what manner of ceremony be adopted in planting trees on the 2d of April.

The Jintown Expo. appropriation got mighty close to the ragged edge in the House. One more far and it would have "herfuntumuxed."

The Supreme Court of Louisiana has declared the law providing for "Jim Crow" street cars in that State to be constitutional.

The new "cup lifter" is called Shamrock III. She will be second when the race for the cup is finished.

Boston was highly pleased with General Miles. He did not refuse beans at a single banquet.

The serious charges against the management of the Central Asylum seem to have been still born.

North Carolina is one lap ahead of South Carolina in the matter of sensational shootings.

As summer approaches last year's Panama hat jokes are being warmed over for early use.

The Century Cotton Mill at South Boston has suffered a Fries out. It has merged.

Judge Campbell knows now when the twenty days will expire.

Personal and General.

Frederick Remington, the well-known artist, has been spending some time in the Southwest recuperating his health and gathering material for new work.

Dr. William R. Brooks, director of Smith Observatory, and professor of astronomy in Hobart College, has been awarded the Comet medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific for the discovery of his twenty-third comet.

Former Senator William E. Mason spent last Saturday in Burlington, Ia. He was asked what his plans for the future are, and he answered: "I am going back to Chicago to do a little law, a little politics, and a man named Yates."

The Pope has constituted a new order of chivalry, entitled the Order of St. John Lateran. There are to be three degrees, the crosses being respectively of gold, silver and bronze.

August Noel, an aged negro, who died near New Orleans on Saturday, had worked for the three generations of the McCall family of Louisiana as a slave, and later as an employee, for 104 years.

Dr. W. E. Inksetter, a prominent citizen of Costa Rica, now visiting Kansas City, says that Costa Ricans consider the rejection by the United States of the Nicaragua route for the proposed Panama canal one of the greatest misfortunes that ever befell their country.

Prof. Charles D. Walcott, director of the Geological Survey, declares that the anthracite coal fields of the United States will be exhausted in sixty years if the present rate of consumption continues, and that the bituminous fields will be worked out by the year 2205. The lignite beds of the West are practically inexhaustible, however, he says.

With a Comment or Two.

Senator Wickham says the General Assembly may not adjourn before August. Well, we doubt not that its members can stand the Richmond summer weather almost as well as did those of the Constitutional Convention, but the State's situation may not hold out so well—Fredericksburg Star.

As a summer resort for legislators and other good folks, Richmond has but few equals and a very limited number of superiors.

It is difficult to see how that North Carolina doctor hoped to clear himself of the charge of unprofessional conduct by shooting his brother physician, Birmingham News.

They do not try men on that charge in the North Carolina courts.

We trust those rosy-hued predictions will be verified, but it has always been our conviction that the man who would use money for bribery in an election would lie about it afterwards.—Charlotte Gazette.

The above is in reply to our views as to the benefits to be derived from the Barksdale bill. The law as it now stands is all right. A rigid enforcement of it is all that is needed.

Mr. W. H. White succeeds the late W. C. Blackman as cashier of the First National Bank of Salisbury—Weldon News. Evidently the "Lily Whites" have won out in North Carolina.

Trend of Thought in Dixie Land

Houston Post: The negro has no desire for the opening of "the door of hope"; that sounds to him depressingly like death. What Uncle Rastus wants opened to him is the gate to the melon patch.

Florida Times-Union: Once it was considered the height of cruelty to hunt criminals with dogs—now the Sheriff's pack is not uncommon. But when a murderer is chased out of the Florida woods by firing the brush we may expect a howl of protest from those who have read of the "hounds ascending to heaven" in the old hunters' stories of the West.

Birmingham News: It requires a period to clear away the rubbish for work on the canal proportionate with the time it required to get the politics out of the way. It will be a long time before ships are sailing through.

Memphis Commercial Appeal: After Admiral Schley had won the battle of Santiago, he accepted without a murmur the command of the South Atlantic fleet, with the Chicago as his flagship. Crumshell considers himself a bit of a man to accept the Chicago as his flagship; but nobody else in or out of the navy seems to agree with him.

Birmingham Age-Herald: Germany is now busy assailing the Monroe doctrine from the loop holes of its esteemed newspaper offices. But the doctrine can stand a siege conducted by long-tongued pop-guns.

THE MAN ABOUT TOWN

—BY—
Harry Tucker.

DAILY CALENDAR, MARCH 20th.

1903—Congressman Lamb sent us a package of grass seed.

1904—Somebody's cows ate all the beautiful grass off the top of our woodshed.

The things they do in Fulton, they say are strange and weird. But if they're gone to foolishness, the fact we haven't heard.

Some folks we know in Fulton are sharp and bright, indeed. And while they're not too fast or swift they have the proper speed.

While Fulton's at the other end, it isn't in the rear.

We don't think they stand in the rain or have the slightest fear.

Of being left down in the stretch when the race is being run.

They'll be in front, you bet your life, at the firing of the gun.

We notice that Colonel Richardson is having the grass in the Capitol Square chopped off.

We feel glad that it, for we love to go out in the square and roll about in the grass in the summer time and pick butternuts.

It seems to us that he might facilitate matters by getting the farmers in the Legislature to help him out.

They ought to be able to tell him whether to cut grass up or down, and how to handle it in the lowlands as well as on the hillsides.

Let the Legislature go to work and appoint a committee to look into the grass question.

And talking about grass, we have just received a package from the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, containing enough seed (non pratinensis) to sow two hundred square feet.

The package was sent with the compliments of Congressman Lamb, for whom we have always had great respect.

On the back of the package there appeared some instructions, and for the benefit of those who contemplate sowing seeds in their back yards or flats we herewith hand out the instructions.

"The success of lawn making depends upon the preparation of the ground. The land should be well plowed or dug and harrowed or raked to secure thorough pulverization, and, if possible, well rolled down and dressed with the proper fertilizer. This will make the lawn a source of ever varying beauty and enjoyment throughout the season."

"This package contains enough seed to sow two hundred square feet, so that you should report the result of your trial to this department."

We shall take great pleasure in making a report to the Agricultural Department. But somebody will have to send me a plot.

We haven't got quite two hundred square feet, and we will be glad to distribute the other 150 square feet among our friends.

North Carolina Sentinel.

The Asheville Citizen "is" greatly alarmed. It says:

"Is North Carolina suffering from an epidemic of bloodshed? Two weeks ago one man shot another down on the streets of Raleigh. Last week a somewhat similar tragedy occurred at Troy, Montgomery county, and now at Tarboro a third one occurs. All prominent people, all carried pistols and in every case the killing was the result of a feud of more or less long standing. Verily, the good old State seems to have fallen upon an era of lawlessness. Punishment no longer being certain, it is natural that human life should be held cheap."

The Concord Times is also in a state of alarm. It says:

"Jim Wilcox, against whom there was not one scintilla of direct evidence, was twice found guilty of murder. Bishop, who shot down his victim in his own home and did not deny it, was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to only five years in the penitentiary. Tazewell, who killed the man he had engaged on the streets in broad daylight, will plead self-defense, and will go free, no doubt. Tillman, who murdered an unassuming man without a word or sign of warning, will go scot free, it seems to be generally conceded. In the face of such facts as these, where in the name of heaven has justice flown?"

The Wilmington Messenger says:

"Governor Aycock, Superintendent of Education Joyner and their lieutenants seem to have mapped out plans for a vigorous campaign of education for this spring. Let the press and the people give them encouragement and backing. Let the good work go on until every white girl and boy in North Carolina has a common school education."

The Raleigh Post suspects something. It says:

"The President ought not to start on his eight-weeks' swing through the West on 'All-fools' Day. The Fairbanks boomers must be putting up this job on him."

"BOBS" His Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs.

By REGINALD LANG.

Copyright by Philip Little.

"And you are going to keep up your work, are you not?"

"Yes, indeed, I am. I would not give it up for the world. I love my profession, and there is only one thing I care more for on earth."

"What is that?" she looked at him, startled by the warmth of his tone, and then dropped her eyes. She saw something there that she had never seen before.

"You, Anita, dear, I love you more than anything else on earth. Tell me that I have a chance to win you, dearest, if I have."

Anita raised her great brown eyes to his and threw her arms around his neck as she laid her head upon his shoulder. "Bobs, you cannot need to ask. I am yours, and have been ever since I knew you."

Their lips met in a long, sweet kiss and the great clock in the corner ticked away the moments unnoticed and unheard.

"One more thing I have to tell you, dearest," said Bobs, after they had returned to earth, or, at least, to a nearer proximity than they had been for some moments, "something which has pleased me beyond measure, and was entirely unexpected as to make it all the more pleasant. Mr. Elliott has given me \$500,000, on condition that I will not give up my profession, and he tells me that he has left me all his property in his will. May it be a long time before I inherit it, that is I ask."

"How splendid of him, Bobs, and yet how like the dear man."

"He also suggested that I find out whether you cared for me, having already given me as to my feelings in the matter first."

"Why, the dear old matchmaker! Would you not have spoken yourself?"

"Not till I had made enough to support you, and wait much longer. I could not. You see that I have decided ideas on such subjects, and I am quite sure that I would not be the first woman that has proposed to a man."

"Perhaps not, dearest, but I am glad that I got the first. I can thank Mr. Elliott for putting me in the position to do so, and for spurring me on."

"O, I would have made it easy for you, dear. You would have done it without realizing it if I had tried my best. I am sure."

CHAPTER XLII.

As Mr. Van Nostrand entered the room, Anita and Bobs rose to meet him.

"Papa," said Anita, rather timidly, "I have something to tell you."

"Say rather that we have something to tell him," said Bobs smiling.

Mr. Van Nostrand paused in front of them with a puzzled expression on his face. Much as he loved them, he was not a man to be easily deceived.

"What would you love one another, as he had told Mr. Elliott, now that it had happened, he did not see it. The events of the past twenty-four hours had driven it from his mind, so that he had not conversed with anything to him."

"Well, dear, what is it?" He had not heard what Bobs had said, or at least, it had meant nothing to him.

"Papa, Bobs wishes to marry me. It was out at last."

"Bobs wishes to marry you, Anita?"

"Yes, Mr. Van Nostrand, I love her, and I wish to marry her. Mr. Elliott has generously placed me in such a position that I can do so if you will give your consent, and I know that I can surround her with the comforts which she has been accustomed to."

For a moment Mr. Van Nostrand paused in astonishment, he was so taken by surprise. Anita's heart sank, and Bobs' blood ran cold, as they stood awaiting the answer. But they were not to be kept long in suspense. Mr. Van Nostrand held out a hand to each of them and stooped to kiss his daughter.

"You have made me very happy, then I can tell you, he said to Anita, with a low cry of joy threw her arms around his neck."